

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing a solar cell foil ~~of the method~~ comprising:
 - providing an etchable temporary substrate;
 - applying a front electrode of a transparent conductive oxide (TCO) onto a first side of the temporary substrate;
 - applying a photovoltaic layer onto the TCO;
 - applying a back electrode;
 - applying a permanent ~~carrier~~; and carrier ensuring that the front electrode and the back electrode are electrically connected in an interconnect to establish a series connection, the front and the back electrode each being interrupted by a front groove and a back groove, respectively, at different sides of the interconnect,
 - wherein in any one of the preceding ~~steps~~, steps after application of the TCO:
 - the thickness of the temporary substrate is reduced by etching part of the temporary substrate;
 - subsequently applying an etch resist located is applied on a second side of the temporary substrate opposite to a ~~first~~ the first side of the temporary substrate covering the interconnect, and at least not at the entire ~~location~~ width of the front ~~groove, and groove;~~
 - followed by selectively removing portions of the temporary substrate where it is not covered with the etch resist, to obtain the solar cell foil provided with a protective cap on the TCO.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein applying of the etch resist on the second side of the temporary substrate is performed directly before the selectively removing portions of the temporary substrate.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the etch resist is a permanent etch resist.

4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3, wherein a color of the etch resist is selected such that the color of the etch resist matches or contrasts with a color of an energy-generating part of the solar cell unit.

5. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 1, wherein the etch resist is a temporary etch resist.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, which is carried out in a roll-to-roll process.

7. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A solar cell unit ~~comprising~~ comprising:
a front ~~electrode,~~ electrode;
a PV ~~layer,~~ layer; and
a back electrode layer, wherein
the solar cell unit is divided into at least two individual cells connected in series, the series connection comprising an interconnect that electrically connects a front electrode of one cell with a back electrode of an adjacent cell, while the front and the back electrode are each interrupted at different sides of the interconnect, in which the solar cell unit has a protective cap that is present on the front electrode covering the interconnect,
~~with the protective cap being of~~ a different material than the interconnect.
interconnect, and
the protective cap extends beyond the interconnect at both sides.

8. (Withdrawn) The solar cell unit of claim 7, which is a flexible solar cell foil suitable for handling in a roll-to roll process.
9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the etch resist is a permanent etch resist.
10. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 2, wherein the etch resist is a temporary etch resist.
11. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2, which is carried out in a roll-to-roll process.
12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3, which is carried out in a roll-to-roll process.
13. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 4, which is carried out in a roll-to-roll process.
14. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 5, which is carried out in a roll-to-roll process.
15. (New) A process for manufacturing a solar cell foil comprising:
 - providing an etchable temporary substrate;
 - applying a front electrode of a transparent conductive oxide (TCO) onto a first side of the temporary substrate;
 - applying a photovoltaic layer onto the TCO;
 - applying a back electrode;
 - applying a permanent carrier ensuring that the front electrode and the back electrode are electrically connected in an interconnect to establish a series connection, the front and the back electrode each being interrupted by a front groove and a back groove, respectively, at different sides of the interconnect,
 - wherein in any one of the preceding steps after application of the TCO:

an etch resist is applied on a second side of the temporary substrate opposite to the first side of the temporary substrate covering the interconnect, and at least not at the entire width of the front groove;

followed by selectively removing portions of the temporary substrate where it is not covered with the etch resist, to obtain the solar cell foil provided with a protective cap on the TCO, and

the protective cap extends beyond the interconnect at both sides.